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STATINTL

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12 MAR 1974

Mr. V. Kh. Dubchak  
 Chief, Technical Administration  
 Ministry of the Merchant Marine  
 1/4 Zhdanova Street  
 Moscow, USSR

*Marine Pollution  
 from Ships*

Dear Mr. Dubchak:

I was pleased to received your letter of 28 December 1973, and particularly the information you sent us. I realize that compiling this information is a formidable task, and I appreciate your efforts in ensuring a timely exchange of information.

With regard to the visit of Soviet specialists to the U. S. in 1974, I would suggest that the visit be delayed until the third quarter of 1974. There have been scheduled during that period several tests of high seas oil spill containment and recovery equipment which I think would be of significant interest to your specialists. If this change of dates meets with your approval, I will attempt to schedule the visit to coincide with the tests. Observing a test of this nature could be coupled with a visit to the San Francisco Vessel Traffic System and a variety of other facilities in keeping with our Protocol of 31 August 1973. If there are any specific facilities which your specialists are desirous of visiting or any specific agenda items which you feel should be discussed, please advise me so that we may plan accordingly.

Concerning vessel traffic management, I have arranged, as I stated earlier, for a visit to the San Francisco Vessel Traffic System. At that time, our specialists would like to discuss with your specialists the various aspects of vessel traffic management looking towards a program of information exchange.

With regard to cooperation in the sphere of joint development of technical requirements for existing ships and ships under construction, we are still examining the feasibility of such a program in light of the recent ILOC Conference. I would like to suggest, however, that we include this as an agenda item during the visit in the U. S. in order to identify more fully the potential for a joint project in this area. Additionally, we should consider the interrelationship of any project we might wish to pursue in this area in light of the recently concluded agreement of the USSR Joint Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Transportation, to which, I understand, you were directly involved.

*Marine Pollution from Shipping*

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I look forward to receiving your reply on the points I have raised. I hope that you will be able to join your group of specialists during the next visit to the U.S. If not, I shall look forward to our next meeting in Moscow.

Sincerely,

S. A. WILLIAMS  
U. S. Coast Guard  
Environmental